(b) the steps taken by Government so far to stop illegal encroachments around World Heritage Sites?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a)1. Illegal encroachment is reported in the protected Bazar in front of Virupaksha Temple at Hampi in Karnataka;

2. A natural rock-shelter is encroached within the protected site at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and

3. In the protected area of Sun temple at Konark, shops have come up on either side of the approach road.

(b)1. Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority has been constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner, Bellary who is vested with powers to administer and govern the World Heritage Area including removal of encroachments.

2. Demolition order has been issued by the Archaeological Survey of India and District Collector, Raisen has been requested to implement the same. Encroacher has approached the district court for a decision; therefore, the matter is sub-judice.

3. A development plan has been drawn to relocate the shops away from the monument and the State Government of Orissa has agreed to extend requisite help in rehabilitating the shopkeepers by providing alternate land.

Action Plan for restoring Sun Temple

90. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Archaeological Survey of India proposes to give a facelift to Sun God Temple at Konark in Orissa;

(b) whether the ASI proposes to restore the original splendor and shape to this 13th century edifice a world heritage monument; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan of ASI?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Requisite conservation measures are taken up regularly and a development plan has been formulated to provide documentation-cum-cultural information centre, bus/car parking and shopping plaza to rehabilitate shop keepers, and to develop the environs around the Sun Temple besides illumination with soft lighting.